

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05712 111418Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
----- 098540

R 111315Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6808

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 5712

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAITI LABOR LEADER LET PASS OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE GOK

REF: (A) KUWAIT 4597, (B) KUWAIT 4625, (C) KUWAIT 4713

1. RECENT EDITION OF AL-AMAL, THE ORGAN OF THE KUWAITI WORKERS

CONFEDERATION (KWC), CONTAINS TEXT OF SPEECH BY NASIR AL-FARRAJ, KWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, DURING OCTOBER WFTU MEETING HELD IN EAST BERLIN. SPEECH MADE NO REFERENCE TO KUWAITI AUTHORITIES OR EVENTS.

2. COMMENT: AL-FARRAJ IS ONE OF KEY KUWAITI LABOR LEADERS ARRESTED IN LATE SEPTEMBER (REF A) FOR CRITICIZING GOK; HE WAS LATER RELEASED, APPARENTLY AFTER MAKING AMENDS (REF B). WFTU FORUM WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE IN WHICH KUWAITI LABOR MOVEMENT COULD HAVE BEEFED ABOUT HARSH KUWAITI GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST LABOR LEADERS IN SEPTEMBER. HOWEVER, AL-FARRAJ'S SPEECH IS NOTABLE FOR ITS LACK OF MENTION OF KUWAIT AND TOTAL CONCENTRATION ON PALESTINE. (HE GIVES STANDARD DIATRIBE ABOUT PALESTINIAN/ISRAELI SITUATION, AND CLOSES WITH AFFIRMATION KWC SUPPORT FOR PLO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.) HIS FAILURE TO USE THE WFTU PLATFORM TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE GOK, EVEN IN MILD TERMS, SEEMS TO CONFIRM OUR EARLER SPECULATION THAT THE KWC LEADERSHIP HAS STRUCK A DEAL WITH GOK (REF C).

MAESTRONE

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